

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01603 110809Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
-----110822Z 004884 /21

R 101525Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9233
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1603

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XA, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BAGAZA OF
BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA 128

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG PAID A BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT
BAGAZA OF BURUNDI FEBRUARY 5 DURING THE ZANZIBAR CELEBRATIONS.
BAGAZA RAISED THREE ISSUES: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S.,
THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN
BURUNDI.

2; BAGAZA SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD BEGIN TO TRANSFER MORE
ASSISTANCE TO SMALL COUNTRIES NOT TO LARGER, WEALTHIER ONES.
FORGETTING SMALL POOR COUNTRIES LIKE BURUNDI WAS NOT IN ACCORD
WITH AMERICAN VALUES. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT WE PROVIDED ASSIS-
TANCE TO MULTILATERAL AGENCIES AS WELL AS BILATERAL. WE HAVE
FINALLY BEGUN TO START AN AID PROGRAM IN BURUNDI, AND HE
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BELIEVED THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE MORE SENSITIVE TO NEEDS
OF AFRICA.

3. BAGAZA SAID HE HOPED YOUNG WOULD DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICAN
ISSUES WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA: BAGAZA SAID, IS THE RESULT OF HISTORICAL PROCESSES.
THE REVOLUTION THERE HAD ITS ROOTS IN THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH

REVOLUTIONS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE WHITES WOULD BE
EXPELLED. FREEDOM CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT TURNING TO RACISM.

4. ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN BURUNDI, BAGAZA SAID THERE
HAD BEEN A CHANGE. HIS ASSUMPTION OF POWER IN BURUNDI WAS IN
RESPONSE TO THE NEED TO HAVE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHOOSING
BURUNDI'S LEADERS. SOMETIMES THE AMERICAN PRESS GAVE AN
INCORRECT PICTURE OF AFRICAN STATES, FOCUSING ON TRIBAL
CONFLICTS. THERE HAD BEEN SUCH TROUBLE IN BURUNDI. BUT OVER
THE LAST THREE MONTHS, HIS REGIME HAD SOUGHT TO PULL THE
POPULATION TOGETHER FOR EVERYONE'S GOOD. HE HAD A STRONG
BELIEF IN NATIONAL UNITY. HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD
SUPPORT BURUNDI IN ITS SEARCH FOR NATIONAL UNITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL STABILITY, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS01603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0462
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwhe.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cf5674c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUJUMBURA 128
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3356079
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BAGAZA OF BURUNDI
TAGS: PFOR, XA, US, BY, XJ, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (BAGAZA, JEAN-BAPTISTE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf5674c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009